

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A coupling member for converting a two-post equipment rack, comprising:  
a vertical support member having a first lateral end, a second lateral end, a first longitudinal end, and a second longitudinal end;  
an equipment attachment means coupled to the first lateral end, said equipment attachment means defining a supporting point for a load, said equipment attachment means being further adapted to secure to a load; and  
means for securing the coupling member to the two-post equipment rack.
2. (currently amended) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said supporting point emulates a vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack that complies with EIA-310 standards.
3. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said equipment attachment means is a flange.
4. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said load comprises a sliding assembly.
5. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said load comprises a cable management arm.
6. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said load comprises electronic equipment.

7. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, further comprising:

    a first torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at said first longitudinal end.

8. (original) The coupling member of claim 7, further comprising:

    a second torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at said second longitudinal end.

9. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said means for securing the coupling member to the two-post rack comprises a rack attachment flange coupled to the second lateral end of the vertical support member.

10. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is adapted to be mounted adjacent to other coupling members and to be supported by adjacent coupling members.

11. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, further comprising:

    at least one coupling feature.

12. (original) The coupling member of claim 11, wherein said at least one coupling feature is attached to said first torsion member and on said second torsion member.

13-14. (withdrawn)

15. (original) The coupling member of claim 11, wherein said coupling feature is adapted to secure to other coupling members adjacent thereto.

16. (original) The coupling member of claim 9, wherein said rack attachment flange is adapted to provide a load transfer path from said vertical support member to the two-post equipment rack.

17. (original) The coupling member of claim 9, wherein said rack-attachment flange is in a pre-loading configuration.

18. (original) The coupling member of claim 17, wherein the pre-loading configuration is provided by said rack attachment flange being secured to said vertical support member at an acute angle.

19. (withdrawn) The coupling member of claim 8, further including an outwardly extending portion on said first and second torsion members, said outwardly extending portion extending beyond said rack attachment flange.

20. (currently amended) The coupling member of claim 7, further including an outwardly extending portion on said first torsion member, wherein said first torsion member further includes a lower flange end on said outwardly extending portion adapted to provide a pivot point for load support.

21. (currently amended) The coupling member of claim 8, further including an outwardly extending portion on said second torsion member, wherein said second torsion member further includes a lower flange end on said outwardly extending portion adapted to provide a pivot point for load support.

22. (currently amended) The coupling member of claim 8, wherein said first and second torsion members ~~are~~ have terminating portions formed at an obtuse angle relative to said vertical support member.

23. (original) The coupling member of claim 7, wherein said first torsion member is substantially perpendicularly coupled to said vertical support member at the first longitudinal end.

24. (original) The coupling member of claim 8, wherein said second torsion member is substantially perpendicularly coupled to said vertical support member at the second longitudinal end.
25. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is formed in increments of one modular unit ("U") in height.
26. (original) The coupling member of claim 1, wherein said vertical support member is provided with one or more openings thereon.
27. (original) The coupling member of claim 26, wherein said openings are adapted to provide ventilation.
28. (original) The coupling member of claim 26, wherein said openings provide tie-points for securing of cables thereto.
29. (original) The coupling member of claim 7, wherein said first torsion member terminates at a point prior to said equipment attachment means, forming a gap therein.
30. (original) The coupling member of claim 8, wherein said second torsion member terminates at a point prior to said equipment attachment means, forming a gap therein.
31. (currently amended) A modified two-post rack, comprising:
  - a first vertical post having a first side and a second side;
  - a second vertical post having a first side and a second side, said second vertical post being coupled to said first post via a base;
  - a first coupling member coupled at a lateral end to, and independently extending

substantially horizontally outward from, said first post, said first coupling member replicating at least one post in a four-post equipment rack; and

    a second coupling member coupled at a lateral end to, and independently extending substantially horizontally outward from, said second post, said second coupling member replicating at least one post in the four-post equipment rack.

32. (currently amended) The modified two-post rack of claim 31, further comprising:

    a third coupling member coupled to and independently extending substantially horizontally outward from said first post; and

    a fourth coupling member coupled to and independently extending substantially horizontally outward from said second post, said first, second, third and fourth coupling members each substantially replicating a different vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack.

33. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 32, wherein said first coupling member comprises:

    a vertical support member having a first lateral end, a second lateral end, a first longitudinal end, and a second longitudinal end;

    an equipment attachment flange coupled to the first lateral end, said equipment attachment flange being adapted to emulate a vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack, said equipment attachment flange being further adapted to secure to a load; and

    a rack attachment flange coupled to the second lateral end of said vertical support member.

34. (original) The modified two-post rack of claim 33, wherein said first coupling member further comprises:

    a first torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the first longitudinal end; and

a second torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the second longitudinal end.

35. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 34, wherein said first coupling member further comprises at least one coupling feature on said first torsion member and on said second torsion member.

36. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 34, wherein said first coupling member is adapted to be supported by adjacent vertical coupling members.

37. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 35, wherein the coupling feature is adapted to secure to coupling members adjacent thereto.

38. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 33, further comprising said rack attachment flange being adapted to provide a load transfer path from said vertical support member to the two-post equipment rack.

39. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 33, further comprising said rack-attachment flange being in a pre-loading configuration.

40. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 39, wherein said pre-loading configuration comprises said rack attachment flange being secured to said vertical support member at an acute angle.

41. (withdrawn) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 34, further comprising:  
said first torsion member and said second torsion member extending beyond said rack attachment flange.

42. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 34, further comprising said first torsion member having a lower flange end adapted to provide a pivot point for load support.

43. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 34, further comprising said second torsion member having a lower flange end adapted to provide a pivot point for load support.

44. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 34, further comprising said first torsion member substantially perpendicularly coupled to said vertical support member at said first longitudinal end.

45. (original) The modified two-post equipment rack of claim 34, further comprising said second torsion member substantially perpendicularly coupled to said vertical support member at said second longitudinal end.

46. (currently amended) A method for converting a two-post equipment rack to support four-post loads, comprising:

coupling independent four-post replicating mounting points on the two-post equipment rack, wherein said mounting points comprise two or more independent coupling members, said four-post replicating mounting points being adapted to support the four-post loads and each coupling member adapted to support the four-post loads at a first lateral end and to attach to only one respective post at a second lateral end.

47. (canceled)

48. (original) The method of claim 46, wherein said four-post replicating mounting points comprise four coupling members.

49. (original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of said four-post replicating mounting points comprise:

    a vertical support member having a first lateral end, a second lateral end, a first longitudinal end, and a second longitudinal end;

    an equipment attachment flange coupled to the first lateral end, said equipment attachment flange being adapted to emulate a vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack, said equipment attachment flange being farther adapted to secure to a load; and

    a rack attachment flange coupled to the second lateral end of said vertical support member.

50. (original) The method of claim 49, wherein one of said four-post replicating mounting points further comprise:

    a first torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the first longitudinal end; and

    a second torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the second longitudinal end.

51. (currently amended) A method for adapting a two-post equipment rack to support four-post loads, comprising:

    coupling a first coupling member to a first post; and

    coupling a second coupling member to a second post, wherein said first coupling member and said second coupling member emulate two of the four posts in a four-post rack with each emulated post defining a supporting point for a load; and

    wherein the two-post equipment rack provides the remaining two posts in the four-post rack.

52. (currently amended) A method for adapting a two-post equipment rack to support four-post loads, comprising: ~~The method of claim 51, further comprising:~~

coupling a first coupling member to a first post;

coupling a second coupling member to a second post;

coupling a third coupling member to a first post substantially planar to and substantially parallel to said first coupling member;

coupling a fourth coupling member to said second post substantially planar to and substantially parallel to said third coupling member; and

wherein each of the coupling members emulate one respective post in a four-post rack, with each emulated post defining a supporting point for a load.

53. (original) The method of claim 52, where said first coupling member comprises:

a vertical support member having a first lateral end, a second lateral end, a first longitudinal end, and a second longitudinal end;

an equipment attachment flange coupled to the first lateral end, said equipment attachment flange being adapted to emulate a vertical upright in a four-post equipment rack, said equipment attachment flange being further adapted to secure to a load; and

a rack attachment flange coupled to the second lateral end of said vertical support member.

54. (original) The method of claim 53, wherein said first coupling member further comprises:

a first torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the first longitudinal end; and

a second torsion member coupled to said vertical support member at the second longitudinal end.

55. (original) The method of claim 51, further comprising securing a load to the vertical support member of said first and said second coupling member.

56. (original) The method of claim 52, further comprising securing a load to the vertical support member of said first, said second, said third and said fourth coupling member.

57. (original) The method of claim 53, wherein said load comprises a slide assembly.

58. (original) The method of claim 52, further comprising:

securing a fifth coupling member to said first post; and  
securing a sixth coupling member to said second post.

59. (original) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

coupling said first coupling member to said fifth coupling member.

60-66. (withdrawn)

67. (original) An equipment support device for two-post rack systems, comprising:

rack attachment means;  
an equipment attachment means coupled to said rack attachment means; and  
a coupling feature for connecting the support device to adjacent equipment support devices.

68. (original) A method for racking a device having a four-post rack-mounting configuration to a two-post rack system, said method comprising:

installing a two-post to four-post adapter on the two-post rack system, the two-post to four-post adapter operable to support a device having a four-post rack-mounting configuration;  
and  
mounting the device to the two-post to four-post adapter.

69. (original) The method according to claim 68, wherein said installing includes coupling the two-post to four-post adapter to the two-post rack system.

70. (original) The method according to claim 69, wherein the coupling includes bolting the two-post to four-post adapter to the two-post rack system.

71. (original) The method according to claim 68, wherein the two-post to four-post adapter includes at least two coupling members.

72. (original) A system for racking a device having a four-post rack-mounting configuration to a two-post rack system, said system comprising:

means for installing a two-post to four-post adapter on the two-post rack system, the two-post to four-post adapter operable to support a device having a four-post rack-mounting configuration; and

means for mounting the device to the two-post to four-post adapter.

73-79. (withdrawn)